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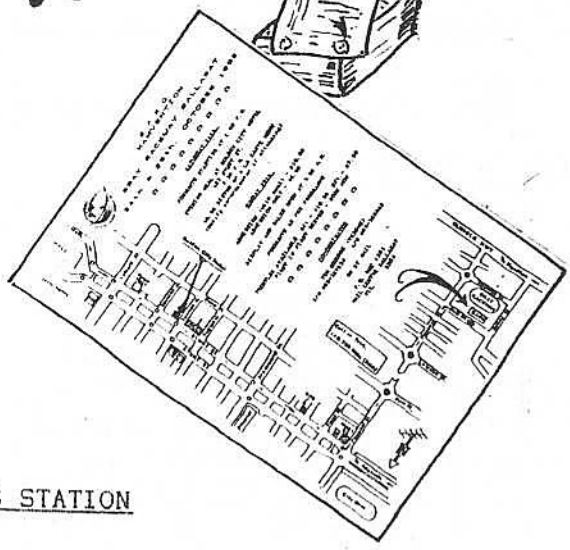
WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

B·A·R·G NEWS

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP Inc.

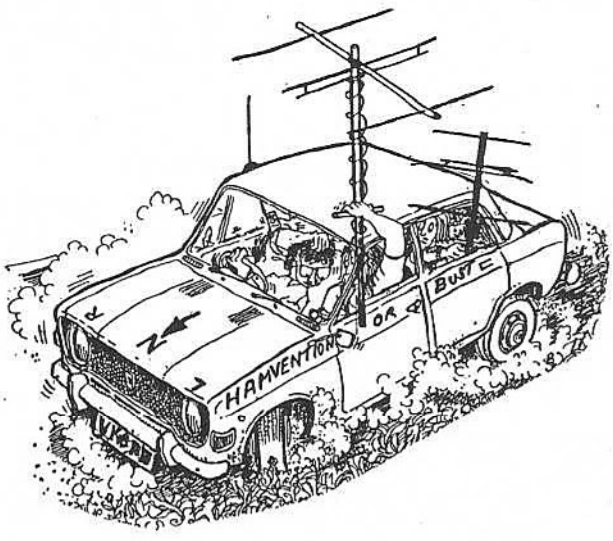
©Monthly Newsletter of the
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc.

OCTOBER '92



CLUB STATION

VK3BML



DON'T GET BUSHED

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST, PUBLICATION No. VBH3397

CHECK OUT OUR MAP ON PAGE 7.

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BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1992/93

			HOME	WORK
PRESIDENT	Ian Robinson	VK3FD	358031	379175
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT	Tom George	VK3DMK	355662	327234
VICE PRESIDENT	Cliff Bilston	VK3CCB	361249	330322
SECRETARY	Jim Wright	VK3CFB	327563	
TREASURER	Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL	357563	
ASST. SECRETARY	George Fowler	VK3DOK	326863	391954
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA	341613	
EDUCATION OFFICER	Tom George	VK3DMK	355662	327234
NET CO-ORDINATOR	John Hazledine	VK3CFH	391971	391035
TECHNICAL OFFICER	Merv Hooley	VK3KAW		311317
MEMBERS' REPS.	Mary Curnow	VK3FMC	301927	
	Reg Carter	VK3CAZ	417585	
	Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS	317425	

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

QSL MANAGER	Jeff Pigdon	VK3PAP	327041	311211
AWARDS MANAGER	Maurie Batt	VK3XEX	422245	
PROPERTY OFFICER	Jeff Pigdon	VK3PAP	327041	311211
HAMFEST CONVENER	Tom George	VK3DMK	355662	327234
WICEN COMMITTEE	Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC	392427	391135
	Geoff Smith	VK3ADB	332112	
	Tom George	VK3DMK	355662	327234
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	Ian McDonald	VK3AXH		311317
	Dick Forrester	VK3VU	357663	391001
	Merv Hooley	VK3KAW		311317
	Dick Antoziewicz	VK3AEX	323273	311818
	David McConnell	VK3YNB		
	Ben Orchard	VK3TOP		377836
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA	341613	

□ □

REPEATERS:
VK3RBA - 146.750 MHz. Voice. Mt. Buninyong. (Ch. 3)
VK3RBS - 146.900 MHz. Voice. Smeaton Hill. (Ch. 6)
VK3RPC - 144.750 MHz. Packet Mt. Warrenheip
VK3RBU - 438.475 MHz. Voice. Mt. Hollowback

CLUB NET: Thursday nights at 8 pm. (8.30 pm. during daylight saving)
Freq. - 3.610 MHz. +/- QRM.

FOX HUNTS: Monday nights at 7.30 pm.
Freq. - 146.500 MHz. Meet at Education Centre - Hopetoun St.

2 METRE SCRAMBLE: Sunday nights at 7.50 pm.
Freq. - 146.425 MHz. to 146.600 MHz. Call back on VK3RBA.

MEETINGS: Last Friday of every month at 7.30 pm. at
Ballarat Community Education Centre
Hopetoun St. Ballarat.

LIFE MEMBERS

MAURIE BATT	VK3XEX
KEVIN HUGHES	VK3WN
IAN McDONALD	VK3AXH
PHIL SEDDON	VK3AQM
GEORGE SMALL	VK3DKJ (DEC)
STAN WIDGERY	VK3SE

CLUB CORRESPONDENCE TO:
The Secretary
B. A. R. G. Inc.
P. O. BOX 1261
MAIL CENTRE BALLARAT
3354

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO:
29 Lawrence St.
Alfredton
Ballarat
Vic. 3350

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BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 28th. SEPTEMBER 1992

MEETING OPENED by President Ian VK3FD at 7.35pm with 49 members in attendance.
APOLOGIES VK3 AAI, DGN, AGD, DS, MIJ, ATA.
CORRESPONDENCE IN Illawarra ARC Newsletter.
CORRESPONDENCE OUT Kelly VK3MKH - Thanks for donation of equipment.
DOTC - List of Club Net operators using VK3BML from home QTH.
TREASURER'S REPORT General Account balance $380.06.
Accounts of $431.42 Passed for payment. KGL/DCS.

CLUB NET The following operators are permitted to use the Club callsign VK3BML from their home QTH: VK3 - KQF, DOK, CFH, AAP, CAZ, VEN, DCS, CCB.

EDUCATION Next examinations on 6th. October, plans for another late November.

TECHNICAL Merv VK3KAW was thanked for organising very successful Packet Group meeting. Packet UHF linking going ahead, WICEN donated $1200 to this project.

PUBLICITY Norm VK3LBA is busy preparing convention brochures, maps to assist guest speakers to find the Education Centre and Membership Identification cards for members.

QSL BUREAU Jeff VK3PAP has not received any cards this month.

JOTA A Club station will operate on the 17th and 18th October at Mt. Beckworth. Please come along and give a hand if you are available. Information from Jeff VK3PAP.

AWARDS Maurie VK3XEX had applications for 2 Goldrush, 2 Western District and 3 DX Widows awards.

HAMVENTION Tom VK3DMK reported that confirmation of the venue had been received from Bray Raceway. The Saturday night get together will be at the Golden City Hotel and Fox Hunts will be conducted on the Saturday afternoon.

WICEN Gordon VK3FGC reported that a uniform for WICEN members has now been approved. He also has a supply of Willis radios for use on WICEN frequency when the crystals become available. WICEN are also investigating the use of Packet in emergency situations.

GEN. BUSINESS Merv VK3KAW reported on Packet meeting and thanked all who gave assistance. Minutes of this meeting will be published in the Newsletter when available.
Ian VK3FD made his equipment available to a Japanese YL operator here on holiday. This gesture was much appreciated by the YL concerned.
Cliff VK3CCB brought along part of his new Werner Wolfe beam.
Charlie VK3DCS reported on abusive language on RBA.

MEETING CLOSED at 8.45pm and after a coffee break the members were entertained by Peter VK3FR who gave a talk on Meteorology. Our thanks to Peter for going to so much trouble. With 2 computers and numerous handouts he gave us one of the most interesting and educational nights we have had in a long time.

NEXT MEETING Friday 30th. October.

73 Jim VK3CFB.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There is an old saying that says 'Spring is sprung the grass is ris' and I guess that applies to this time of the year, however the thing that seems to have 'ris' most is the water level in the rain gauge as we endured this rather wet month of September. The weather was also the high point of our September meeting when we were presented with an excellent address by Peter VK3FR who demonsrated the use of weather satellite technology as an aid to weather studies and forecasting.
October of course is Hamvention month, and I urge all members to support Tom VK3DMK and his team in staffing and helping in various ways to make the weekend a success. Don't forget the sale of Raffle Tickets, as the raffle is a vital part of our cost recovery, and the prize is very good value for the outlay of only $1.00.
Congratulations to successful candidates in the examinations held on the 6th. October and commiserations to those who will be retaining their membership in the 'Coffee Club' until the next exam, your turn will come.
That's all for now. I'll meet you further down the log. 73 Ian VK3FD.

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HAMVENTION RAFFLE PRIZE - TICKETS $1.00 - DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKETS.

The prize for the B.A.R.G. Hamvention raffle is a MYSTERY TOUR for TWO PEOPLE flying AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES with *** ACCOMODATION. VALUE - $318.00

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REWINDING SALVAGED TRANSFORMERS by Maurie (VK3XEX)

Transformers from discarded radio and T.V. sets need not be a total loss, they can be put to good use again, with a little effort, by rewinding them to produce the voltage and current required. In most transformers only one winding, the high voltage secondary, will be ruined, and the HT primary and the filament secondary will still be quite usable.

CHOICE OF TRANSFORMER

For transformers that are required for low voltage and high current capacity, the most suitable is one from one of the early T.V. sets (Black and White), these are very substantial transformers and are ideal for low voltage and high current capacity, up to 20 amps., with correct choice of wire size, can be obtained. (Refer to charts of wire in 'RSGB' and 'ARRL' handbooks.)

INSPECTION

When the choice of transformer to be used is being made, a few checks of the transformer is required. First a visual check. See that there has not been excessive heat around the primary winding and if in doubt it should be discarded. This is important as this winding will be retained and all other windings removed.
Apply mains voltage to the HT primary of the transformer. Ignore the HT secondary and measure the voltage on the low voltage windings. Most old transformers have two windings; one at 5 volts that supplied the rectifier tubes, and one at 6.3 volts for the filament supply. It now remains to dismantle the transformer.

DISMANTLING

Remove the shroud if fitted. Remove the laminations but do not damage them. Each layer is composed of an 'E' and an 'I'. The removal of the 'E' type laminations is made easy if all of the 'I' laminations are removed first, these can be tapped out with the edge of a small screwdriver blade.
On some transformers, between the inside of the former and lamination stack, a wedge is driven in to compact the laminations. Remove the wedge and, with care, remove the 'E' laminations. The use of a thin bladed kitchen knife is very helpful here. With all the laminations removed we have the former with all the windings on. Sort out the leads from the HT primary and tape them to the inside of the former to prevent them being broken off during further preparations.
Remove the insulation and expose the low voltage windings, the wire will be quite thick. Take the outer end of the top layer and unwind the wire, **it is very important to count the turns as they come off and record the number.** If there is both 5 volt and 6.3 volt windings the 6.3 volt winding will have the most turns. Make a note of these as this figure will determine the turns needed for the new low voltage winding.

CALCULATIONS

The turns per volt can be found by dividing the number of turns on the old winding by the rated output of that winding. (e.g. a 6.3 volt winding has 14 turns : divide 14 by 6.3 = 2.22 turns per volt.)
For a new winding to supply 13.8 volts DC it will need to have an output of 18 volts AC, so : 2.22 X 18 = 39.96 or 40 turns.
Remove the rest of the secondary windings and the former is now ready to be rewound with the new winding.

REWINDING

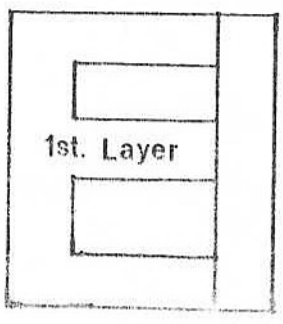
Before winding the new secondary, measure the width across the former. Look up the 'turns per inch' in the handbooks. This will tell you how many turns per layer according to the gauge of wire you are using.
Start the new winding at the same end of the former at which the HT primary starts and ends, but on the opposite side. As each layer is completed tape over with a layer of insulation tape. Bring the final turn out the same end as the start.

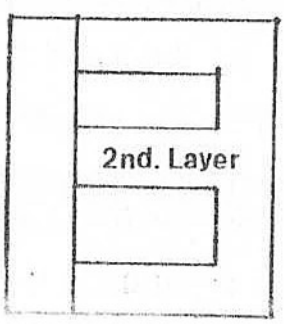
ASSEMBLE LAMINATIONS

Assemble the laminations as shown in the drawings. Note that alternate 'E's face in opposite directions in the stack. When placing the 'E' laminations in the stack make sure that all 3 legs of the 'E' are on top of the ones below.

If enough interest is shown in this project I will bring to a club meeting the homebrew gear I use for winding transformers and coils, also some 'homebrew' samples.

73 Maurie VK3XEX.





DICTIONARY:

MOTORIST - One who keeps pedestrians in good running order.

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NOTICE BOARD

The quality of life is in direct proportion to your wealth.

I don't practice what I preach because I'm not the kind of person I'm preaching to.

COMING EVENTS

October:
10th: Werribee Horse Show.
17th: JOTA
18th: JOTA
24th. Hamvention
Fox Hunts & Dinner
25th: BARG Hamvention
30th: BARG Meeting

November:
13th: Natter Night
27th: BARG Meeting

December:
11th: Natter Night

January 1993:
* Ross Hull Contest
29th: BARG Meeting

February:
*21st: Begonia Rally
26th: BARG Meeting

March:
*John Moyle Contest
26th: BARG Meeting

April:
30th: BARG Meeting

May:
28th: BARG Meeting
(Junk Auction)

June:
*Dick Smith Balloon flight across Aust.
* Novice Contest
25th: BARG Meeting

July:
30th: BARG ANNUAL G.M.

August:
*14th: R.D. Contest
*15th: R.D. Contest
27th: BARG Meeting

* Dates not confirmed.

List will be added to as time & information permits

HAMVENTION 24th & 25th OCTOBER

FOR SALE

12 - 2 Volt 200 AH Batteries plus cabinet.

CONTACT: MAURIE VK3XEX

SEE JEFF VK3PAP RE JOTA.

WANTED (To Buy or Borrow)

Electronics Australia August 1988

BOB VK3BNC

FOR SALE

EX ARMY No 10 A.T.U. Unit In New Condition $10.00
(Antenna not as good)
As used in Jeeps and Command Cars.
BARRY (VK3NBM)

FOR SALE

2 METRE TRANSVERTER to suit 707 or 901 - $200 ONO
PATROLMAN 16 CHANNEL MOBILE SCANNER - $180 ONO
FM321 70cm TRANSCEIVER
80 Channel c/w Cradle mount/Charger - $80

DOUG (VK3KAY) PH 392778

HAS ANYBODY GOT ONE ?

REG (VK3CAZ) is looking for a 500 kHz Crystal.
(Any type mounting will be O.K.)

FOR SALE

AWA RT80 - 25 Watt Mobile 2 Metre.
10 channel with Xtals fitted for Chan 50. & Ballarat repeater. - $90 ONO

2 Metre Handheld
6 channel fitted with Xtals for Ballarat repeater. - $60 ONO

Call CHARLIE (VK3DCS) PH 317425

DID YOU KNOW.....?

That the "official" origin of the term "ham" was described by the League thru ***QST*** in December, 1931. ***QST*** said that the word "ham" meaning an amateur radio operator, was derived from the British Cockney version of "amateur", which they pronounced as "h'anateur"? The abbreviation became "ham". *.....VOHR, June 1992*

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I MARRIED A HAM

(Abridged from a true life story by Nesta Martin.)

Do you know what a ham is ?
I always thought that when it was not something to put in sandwiches it referred to a particularly bad type of actor, but my education has been furthered, for a Ham is an Amateur Radio enthusiast.

At first I thought it rather fun to be seeing our radios from the 'undressed' angle, but when the novelty wore off I passed through a period of annoyance. Now I have been sacrificed on the altar of Amateur Radio and I only protest because it is more or less expected of me.

The tools and general paraphernalia of the ham are legion, and it is amazing how often the household furniture gets pressganged into service.
I have lost several trays that way, and a coffee table. Once a wooden armchair was transformed into a cabinet, don't ask me how, and now he is casting longing eyes at the sideboard. He tells me he could build the record player and the radio into one end and his rigs into the other.
That's good, but where do I keep the knives and forks, the old photographs and the playing cards? I have no doubt that one day the sideboard will become the wonderful thing that he intends but I feel it my duty to reprieve it for as long as possible.

I feel that I ought to admit, in fairness to himself, that there is a room upstairs where most of the bits and pieces live by day, and where the evening work could be done. But I have always maintained that it wakes up the children, so every evening down it all comes one two of my trays and one of my suitcases.

Every week when the time comes for the 'big clean up' I haul the Vacuum cleaner up to the den and open the door, but that is as far as I get.
Frankly I have no way of telling what is rubbish and what is real good ham material so I just close the door and leave it for one of his own cleanups.

I will admit that to the outsider we may seem to live in a kind of a specialised madhouse, but somehow I cannot imagine liking an existence where the only ham I know is the ham I slice and put into sandwiches.
No, I think I would rather keep it the way it is!

From: David (VK3YNB)

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A DOG'S LIFE from FUGS - QSP Debbie (VK3PDB)

Well, you might think that it's easy being an Amateur's dog, but take it from me (one who has endured a Monday night fox hunt) it's a lot easier being a fox than a hound.

The night usually begins with indigestion because the boss makes me gulp down my tucker so we won't be late. No canned food on a fox hunt night though, the boss reckons there's nothing worse than being in a car with a dog thats just eaten a tin of Pal.

It's usually a leisurely trip down to the Education Centre, stopping on the way for the usual munchies, enough to survive on for a couple of days, just in case. I know that if I can control my barking when we are the fox and the microphone button is in, that I may get to share in the goodies.

Once we arrive I sit in the car, always on the lookout and guarding the equipment against sabotage from our fellow hunters, while the boss checks out everyone else's gear on the offchance that there may be a new type of beam that has not yet been copyright protected.

Once we are off and hunting it is time to dig the paws in and hang on. It is at times like these that I am glad that I'm an only dog. The thought of skidding back and forth in the back of a wagon with another dog is frightening. I suppose it could be worse, it could be with a cat and they have got sharp feet. I have to keep an eye out for all the gear that slides around in the back with me. Dodging the winch, which the boss insists on bringing just in case, is easy because it's big enough for me to see it coming. It's the sniffer box, torch, and the boss' C.W. key that are the worry.

I can usually tell when we are getting close to the fox as we start to go round and round in circles, stopping and starting, and taking readings constantly. The boss starts to get anxious. Knowing the fox's whereabouts is a lot easier than knowing how to get to it. If we are really lucky and haven't been bogged, wiped the antenna out on a tree, or just plain lost on the way, we will arrive first and get to go and hide and I can put my paws up for a while and pretend to be a fox. Woof !

de Fugs.

— — — — — —

Accept the challenge - ask someone to stand in for you.

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B. A. R. G.
HAMVENTION
BRAY RACEWAY BALLARAT
24th. & 25th. OCTOBER 1992

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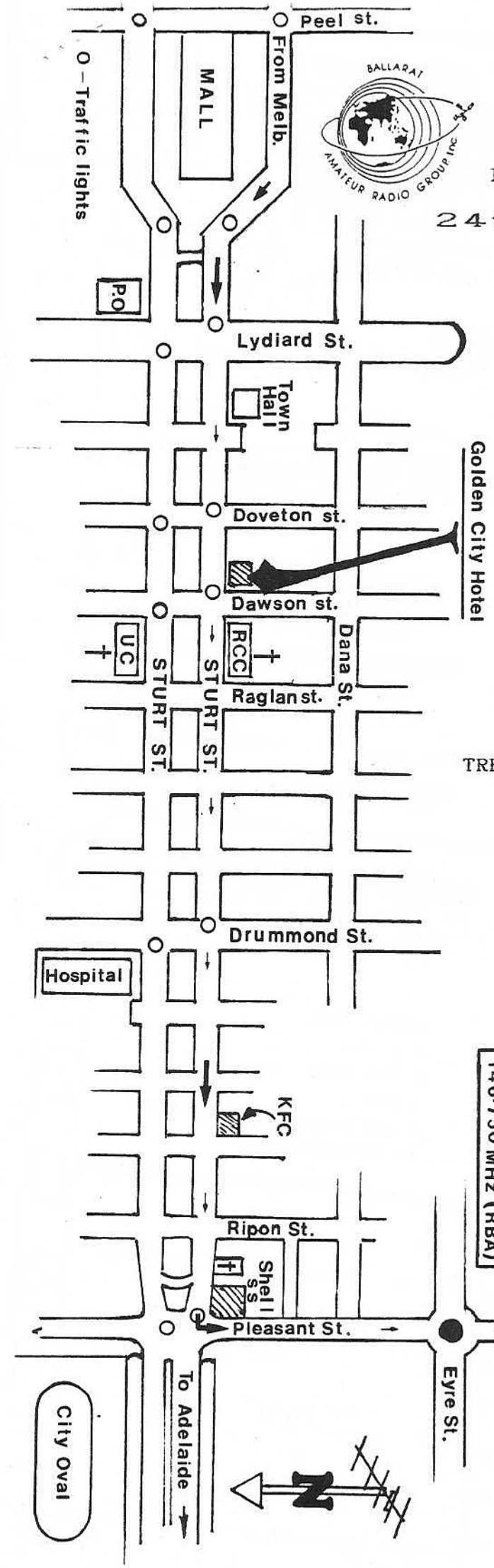

SATURDAY 24th.

FOXHUNTS STARTING AT 2.00 P.M.

EVENING MEAL AT GOLDEN CITY HOTEL
423 STURT ST.
7.30 P.M.
$8.50 BISTRO or A LA CARTE MENU
(Notify co-ordinator if attending)

SUNDAY 25th.

ADMISSION (with meal) – $10.00
ADMISSION ONLY – $5.00

DISPLAY AND SALES OPEN AT 9.00 A.M.

FOXHUNTS AS PER PROGRAMME

TRESTLES AVAILABLE 8ft – $10.00 6ft.– $7.50
FIRST IN FIRST SERVED – BOOK NOW

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CO-ORDINATOR

TOM GEORGE (VK3DMK)
B/H 053-327234 A/H 053-355662

OR BY MAIL

P.O. BOX 1261
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92/10

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WEDDING / PORTRAITURE / COMMERCIAL

****

Instant photographs in colour or black and white for Q.S.L. cards and passport photographs.

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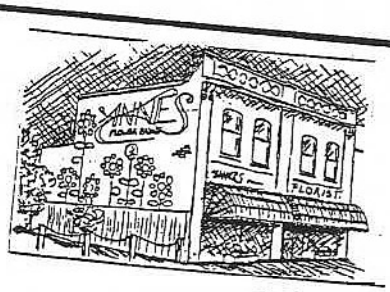

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